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COMMUNICATIONS.

THE PROJECTED INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND THE ARTS, IN PARIS.

The buildings of the foreign nations at the Paris Exposition of 1900, which were erected along the left bank of the Seine and went by the name of "The Street of the Nations," formed a magnificent row of structures, and the laudable idea was suggested to a number of public-spirited Parisians to preserve the more substantial and beautiful of these buildings as places of shelter for international museums of science, education, and the arts, the design being to give permanent synthetic form to the intellectual and moral achievements of the departing century. The character and standing of the patrons of this project are of themselves a guarantee of its success. Four of them are ministers, namely, MM. Millerand, Delcassé, Leygues, and Baudin; and in addition the names of M. Alfred Picard and M. Delaunay-Belleville are also associated with the enterprise. The committee which has been appointed to carry out the details of the project is a representative one and in every way indicative of the liberal and lofty spirit of the undertaking; among them being Prof. Patrick Geddes, MM. Léon Bourgeois, Liard, E. Lavisse, François Coppée, Duclaux, Prince Roland Bonaparte, Louis Herbette, Charles Normand, Émile Bourgeois, Georges Cain, Schrader, John Labusquière, General Sébert, Dr. Martin, G. Moch, and M. Youriévitich.

The question of the possibility of saving the beautiful buildings of the Street of the Nations was submitted to an expert architect, M. Louis Bonnier, who found upon examining the structures that the pavilions of the first of the two rows which stretched along the Quai d'Orsay, with the exception of four, could be easily repaired and made to last ten years at least. The Italian, Turkish, Spanish, and Servian buildings will have to be removed. The new Street of the Nations will comprise, therefore, twelve structures; to wit, the buildings of Greece, Sweden, Monaco, Finland, Germany, Norway, Belgium, Great Britain, Hungary, Bosnia, Austria, and the United States. These form, or will be made to form, a single row; all the other structures of the original Street of Nations having with one exception been either removed or destroyed. The committee has already entered

into communication with the commissioners-general of the twelve countries interested, and in nearly every case the negotiations have been carried to the stage of virtual completion. Sweden and Norway have surrendered their buildings for a nominal indemnity. The Fins have given up their structure unconditionally, and the Germans have made an outright gift of their pavilion to the committee. Some of the other buildings have already been sold to contractors, but these will be recovered at slight cost. The sanction of the city of Paris to the project has yet to be obtained, and about \$200,000 will be required for restoring and strengthening the buildings. But the consent of the city and the money will be soon forthcoming.

The museums to be installed in the various buildings have been determined in a measure by the peculiarities of national development. The United States, for example, has been accorded the high honor of having the museum of comparative education. The program says :

"The United States appears at the present moment as a striking embodiment of the idea of progress, first of material progress (for no people has made such rapid strides in all the pathways of industry and commerce), and secondly of intellectual and moral progress. The beautiful in art, the true in science and education, the good in all orders of social improvement, have been realised by this youthful people with a boldness of enterprise and an energy of execution that command the admiration of the Old World. . . . We offer to the United States, therefore, the honor of sheltering the museum of comparative education."

In the handsome building of Austria will be installed a Panoramic Survey of all the World's Fairs that have been held between the years 1798 and 1900. This museum will contain iconographic representations of all the International Expositions of the past, and afford thus an historical tableau of the progress of art, science, and industry during the entire century. And not only the actual expositions of the past, like that of the Crystal Palace in 1851 and that of Chicago in 1893, but also all the unrealised projects for World's Fairs, will here find representation.

The museum of peace will be lodged in the picturesque pavilion of Bosnia, the royal building of Hungary will shelter the museum of the history of civilisation; that of Great Britain the museum of hygiene and bacteriology; the museum of public art will be placed in the Belgian building; the pavilion of Norway will shelter the fisheries, navigation, and Arctic exploration exhibits; the German building will be consecrated to scientific societies and social economics; the odd and picturesque building of the Finns will contain the museum of geography; that of Monaco will be reserved for the oceanographical and biological museums; while the pavilion of Sweden will be appropriately devoted to the museum of manual training, and the pavilion of the Greeks to that of classical archæology.

The talents and services of some of the most distinguished experts in the above-mentioned departments of human industry and thought have been placed at the disposal of the committee. Dr. A. J. Martin, director of the department of hygiene, has signified his willingness to install in the British pavillion the collections

of Pasteur and Lister ; Prince Roland Bonaparte and M. Schrader have promised to organise the museum of geography, M. E. Lavisse that of history, and MM. Georges Cain, John Labusquière, Charles Normand, and Charles Simond, that of public art. According to the statements of a recent number of *Figaro*, every day is bringing forth some new project, evidences of new sympathy, and new assistance. It is sincerely to be hoped that the aspirations which have here taken so tangible and noble a form will be speedily realised, and that the beautiful Street of the Nations will remain as a permanent and inspiring monument to international artistic and intellectual effort.